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## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

### SUPPORT DEFENSE MODERNIZATION

*VOTE YES ON H.R. 4546-The Bob Stump National Defense  
Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003*

Dear Colleague:

The events of 9/11 have changed America. The traditional regional threats continue to require vigilance and modern equipment to deter aggression. Now, non-state threats, using our freedom, tolerance, and openness as weapons against us, are indiscriminate in seeking to inflict terror against our people, our institutions, and our culture.


We must be aggressive in our preparation, vigilance, and response.

The President's funding request for modernization programs for our nation's military forces is \$10 billion above the levels of last year. Yet, the level of requested funding is significantly below what is required and fails to adequately address the modernization needs of our military forces. At \$71 billion, the request for military procurement falls far short of the \$90 billion to \$100 billion annual requirement cited by analysts inside and outside government to recapitalize our force structure. The average age of Air Force aircraft has increased from 13 to 22 years since 1990. The anemic shipbuilding rate of five ships in the budget request would result in a 250 ship Navy over the long term, down from the current 314 ship level. The critical need for development and fielding of lighter, more lethal, transformational ground forces required in today's threat environment, must be addressed. The national guard and reserve forces, that constitute an ever increasing component of our military forces, must be satisfactorily equipped for war fighting and crisis response.

Against this backdrop, H.R. 4546 adds funds for the eighth consecutive year to modernize our forces. The Committee has added \$2.9 billion to military procurement for equipment modernization, ordnance, and chemical-biological defense programs.

WE URGE YOU TO VOTE 'YES' ON H.R. 4546.

Sincerely,



Curt Weldon  
Chairman, Military Procurement  
Subcommittee



Gene Taylor  
Ranking Member